

Irish dance has been a significant factor in my life since I was 3 years old. I began this beloved sport as I followed in the footsteps of three of my older sister. Falling in love with this sport has been the easiest thing i have ever done. However moving up into new levels is where I was significantly challenged. The challenge is what made me more driven. I feel that Irish dance has taught me much more than the rhythms and beats of the culture, but it has taught me to be graceful, to be fearless, and to acknowledge that sometimes when you stand alone, you achieve the most.

When I first began dancing, it was in a “Mommy and Me” class, and my mother was mortified but that was the day I fell in love. I saw opportunity to win, and gained the experience of learning from failure. This sport goes beyond the fancy makeup, expensive dresses, leather shoes, and wigs...yes, wigs. There are solo dances and team dances but no matter which one you preform, you have people counting on you to succeed.

As I have grown, and become much more competitive in this part of my life, I have been fortunate enough to compete in the regional, national, and world championships of Irish Dance in the past three years. Coming to the University of Rhode Island i have not planned to change this part of my life, but only expand it. I am currently enduring the brutal seven week process of starting the Irish Dance Club here, with Christina Drago. She also shares this passion of dance and also competes at these major events.

Irish dance is not something easily understood nor something many people accept as a normal thing to do, but believe it or not, this sport is world renown and extremely competitive. There is no end, you can never “be the best” because by the

time you reach your prime, someone is working to beat you. I have learned to be the person I am because of this part of my life. The hours of practice, the culture of the sport, and the people I have been introduced to because of it, make it impossible to give up.